

## PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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July 23, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## Technology Center 2600

## SECOND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of those documents are also enclosed.

Each of the listed documents was first cited in one or more of counterpart Japanese Patent Applications 2000-063661, 200-049266 and 11-097039, in Japanese Office Actions dated May 16, 2003, May 30, 2003 and June 2, 2003, respectively, copies of which are enclosed.

For the concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents, the Examiner is referred to the corresponding English abstracts. It is noted that Japanese application JPA-10-269353 was originally filed in English, and a copy of the English document is attached to the Japanese language document.

Based on reasonable inquiry, the undersigned states that these documents were first cited in any foreign counterpart application of the present application, in the Japanese Office Actions mentioned above, that is, within three months before the filing of this Second Information Disclosure Statement.

While no fee is believed to be required for consideration of this Information at this time, any such fee that is deemed to be due should be charged, and any overpayment should be credited, to our Deposit Account 06-1205.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 28 296

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